

U3A MAC USERS GROUP Browsing the Internet

Which Browser?



Safari?



Firefox?



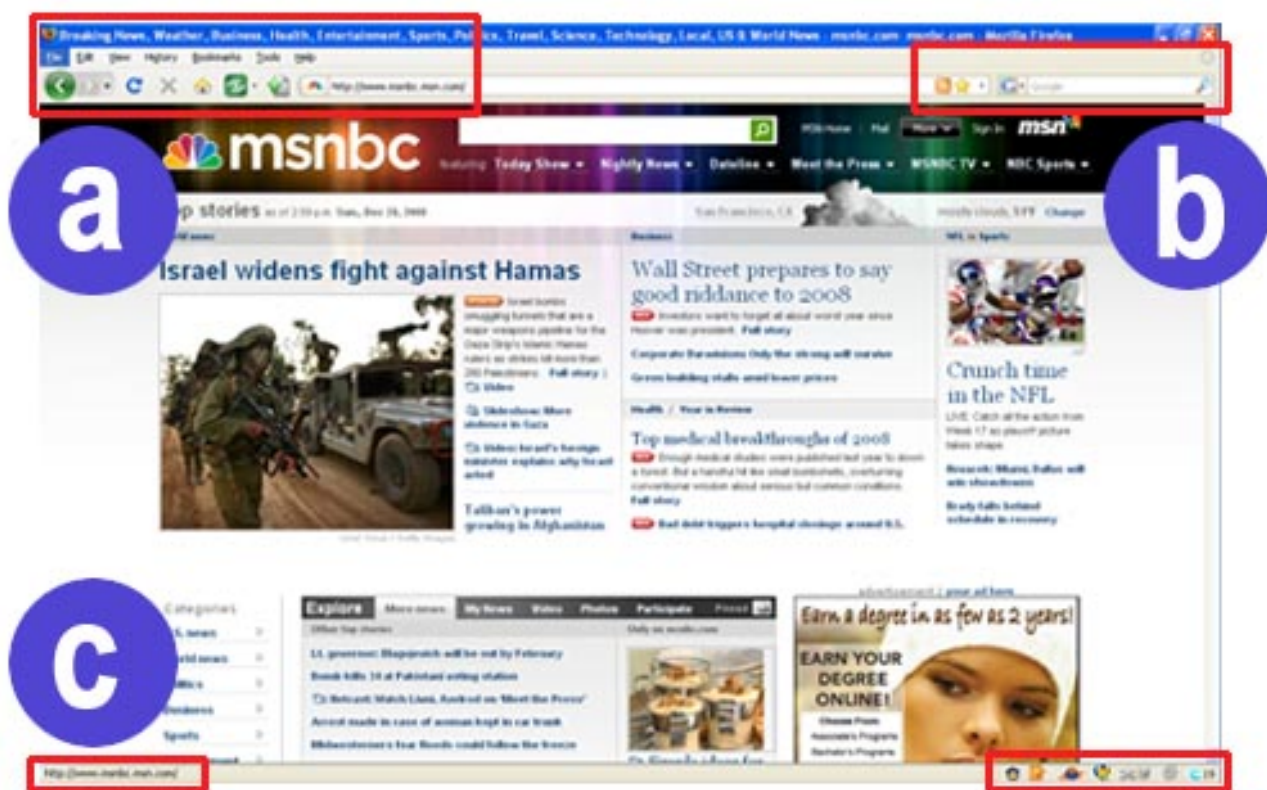
Chrome?



Opera?

They all work well enabling you to “surf the web”. Each has slightly different features and, depending on how you use the internet, one might suit you more than another. Give them all a try and see which one suits you best.

ANATOMY OF A WEB BROWSER

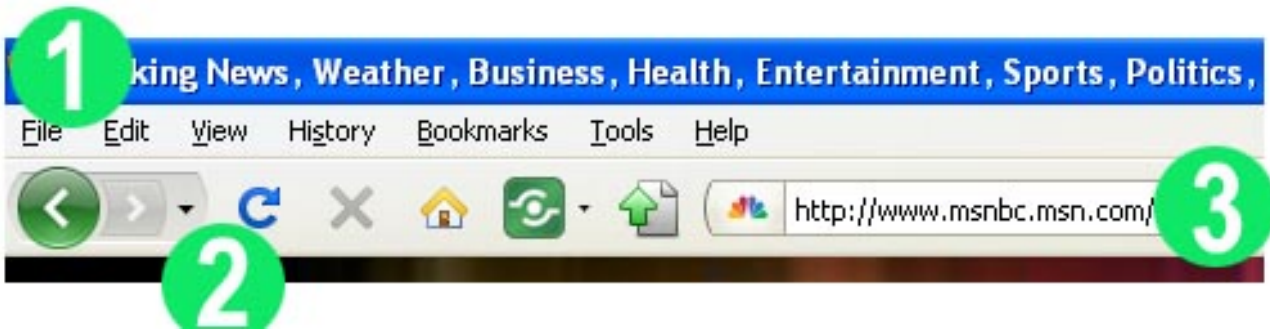


The above pic shows a

standard Firefox Browser. Firefox allows for many add ons, extensions and extra toolbars, which attracts many users.

The highlighted areas contain specific areas of the web browser that a user should know by name.

A. TOOLBARS, ADDRESS BARS and TITLE BARS



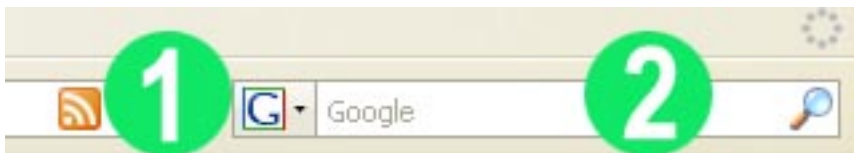
A1: Title Bar – The text that appears at the top of the browser window is called the title bar. This usually includes text that describes the content that appears on the web page. For example, the text of the title bar for MSNBC.com is “Breaking News, Weather, Business, Health ...”.

The text of the title bar is also the text that appears in Google search results for that page. If you Google search for “msnbc”, the text you will likely find for the MSNBC.com home page search result is the same as the text you see in the title bar of the MSNBC.com home page.

A2: Toolbar – A tool bar is a menu bar of buttons and input boxes on the browser. The toolbar in this example is the Navigational Toolbar. This standard Firefox toolbar includes the browser’s back, forward, home and reload buttons, as well as the address box and search box (not pictured).

A3: Address Field – This input box displays the address, or URL, of the webpage you are viewing. You can enter any web address in this box to navigate to new pages. You can also copy a URL (web page address) and paste it into this box.

B. RSS BUTTON and SEARCH BOX



B1: RSS Button – If a web page offers an RSS feed, in most modern browsers, you will see the orange square with white lines. This indicates an RSS feed is available for that particular web page. You can click this button to open a new dialogue box in your browser that will give you options for subscribing to this RSS feed.

B2: Search Box – The search box is a standard on most modern web browsers. Instead of visiting Google or Yahoo! to search for something, just enter your search phrase into this box on the top left of your browser and hit enter. The browser should automatically send the query to the desired search engine and send you to a search engine results page.

Google Chrome works a little differently in that both the address field and the search box are combined in the same field. You can type either a URL or a search query, and Google will send you to the appropriate page.

C. STATUS BAR

The status bar appears at the bottom of your web browser. When you are loading a web page, this bar usually will show the browser's progress. Also, when you hover links with your pointer, the address of those links will often appear in this status box. This allows you to see which web page your browser will load before clicking the link.

The status bar can offer more functions when you add extensions or add ons to your browsers.

TABS



Tabs give your browser the ability to load multiple web pages without opening a new window.

To open a new tab, press Ctrl+T. You then will have a new tab where you can open a new web page and easily switch back and forth between your other tabs.

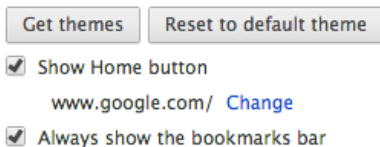
When multitasking, web work without tabs would be nearly impossible. Give them a try.

SETTING YOUR "HOME PAGE"

The Home Page refers to the page that you first see when you open your web browser. You can decide what page you'd like (eg the Google search engine page or whatever).

CHROME: open *Preferences* (under the Chrome name on the Toolbar)

Appearance

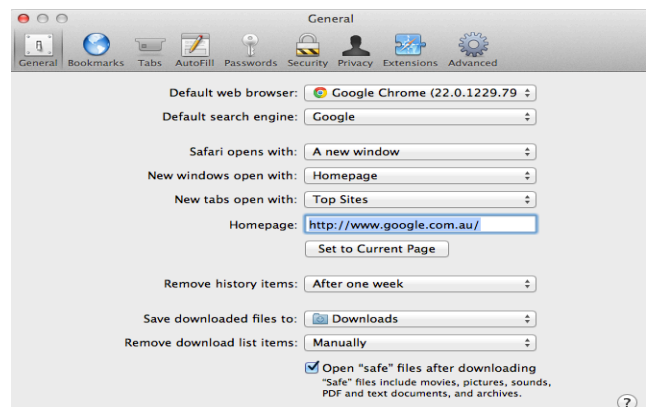


Click on **Change** type in your selected Home Page

SAFARI and FIREFOX:

open Preferences (as above)

Open **General** type in or paste your preferred Home Page



SAVING BOOKMARKS

When you come across a page you like and may wish to revisit again at a later date you can **Bookmark it** (ie save its address in your browser so a simple click will bring it back on screen)

All browsers have on their Toolbar one named **Bookmarks** – when clicked a drop-down window will appear with one of the options being either “ *Add Bookmark*” or “*Bookmark this Page*”. When this link is clicked the internet page that is open have its address recorded and saved onto your computer.

You can choose where to save this particular book mark to – it may just be in the Bookmarks generally or into a particular folder or into the Bookmark Bar (more on that later)

Managing Bookmarks

Under the Bookmarks icon in the Toolbar there is a link to either *Show all Bookmarks* or *Bookmarks Manager* – these allow you to organise all your bookmarks by deleting those you don’t want anymore, moving selected ones into Folders (even creating them) or into different sections (eg Bookmarks Bar)

